

Gasohol permits
(HB 1054 by Coody)

DIGEST: The bill would have transferred authority to issue industrial alcohol manufacturing permits from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission to the Railroad Commission.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

SB 228, already signed, gives the Commissioner of Agriculture certain duties with regard to gasohol, such as registering fuel-alcohol equipment. Signing HB 1054 would result in lack of coordination in the state's approach to fuel-alcohol regulation, by having more than one agency responsible. The Legislature should transfer gasohol-permit authority from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission to the Department of Agriculture, to keep the regulatory process as clear and simple as possible.

SPONSOR'S
VIEW:

Putting all fuel-alcohol regulation under one agency is unnecessary, Rep. Coody said. It would be appropriate to have the Railroad Commission issue gasohol permits, because it is an energy regulatory agency. More than one state agency will be involved with fuel alcohol, in any case. Even if authority to issue permits to alcohol producers is transferred to the agriculture department, enforcement of the Alcoholic Beverage Commission will still be needed, "to make sure they're not making 'white lighting,'" i.e., beverage alcohol. However, given the veto, and the passage of SB 228, it would probably now make sense to transfer permitting authority to the agriculture department.

NOTES: SB 228 (Sarpalius) requires the Commissioner of Agriculture to adopt by rule procedures for the registration of fuel-alcohol equipment offered for sale or lease in Texas. The bill also authorizes the commissioner to adopt standards of quality and purity for fuel-alcohol, to test alcohol-based fuel sold in the state, and to promote alcohol fuels through information programs and intergovernmental cooperation.

Grievance procedures for Houston police officers
(HB 1115 By Washington)

DIGEST: This bill would have established a grievance procedure for Houston police so that grievances could have been handled within the department within a prescribed period of time. After attempting to resolve a grievance between parties and appropriate officers, a grievance committee would have made a final and binding decision. Violations of grievance committee decisions would have been investigated by the Civil Service Commission. The Commission could have removed